

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections. Claims 1-11, 14, 16-18, 20-21 are previously withdrawn. Claim 12 has been amended. Claim 13 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 12, 15, 19 and 22 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 12, 15, 19 and 22 over *Zelczer* and *Cole*

The Office Action rejects claims 12, 15, 19 and 22 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Zelczer*, USPN 4,545,524 (*Zelczer*) in view of *Cole*, USPN 3,976,245 (*Cole*). The Office Action alleges that *Zelczer* discloses a zone control apparatus showing all the claimed elements of the present invention, with the exception of a pin piercing a nipple and an air tube. The Office Action further alleges that *Cole* discloses the pin connection element not disclosed in *Zelczer*. To overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant may show that there is one limitation of the claim which is not taught or suggested by any combination of the cited references, or in the alternative may add such a limitation by appropriate amendment, MPEP §2143.03. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses this rejection.

Currently amended independent claim 12 recites in a salient portion (emphasis added):

**“the pneumatic bladder assembly comprising:...a band surrounding the nipple
and the pin to prevent the pin from dislodging form the nipple.”**

The Office Action declares claim 13, which depends from independent claim 12, to be allowable over *Zelczer* and *Cole* if rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 13, which is canceled herein. Therefore, currently amended claim 12 has the exact combination of claim limitations which are described in the Office Action as being allowable over *Zelczer* and *Cole*.

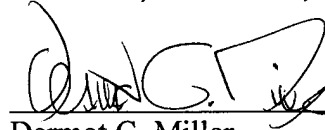
In directly depending from currently amended independent claim 12, each of claims 15, 19 and 22 incorporate limitations of claim 12 which are not disclosed or suggested by any combination of *Zelczer* and *Cole*. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 12, 15, 19 and 22 based on *Zelczer* and *Cole* be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 12, 15, 19 and 22 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

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Respectfully submitted,
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